

State of Massachusetts Bay

Council Chamber Dec: 18 1776

Sir

This State agreeable to the Recommendation of Congress have sometime since taken measures for raising their Quota of the Continental Army. It appears by a Resolution passed by Congress the 16 of September last that the monies to be given for Bounties is to be paid by the Paymaster in the Department where the Soldier shall Enlist, a Number of Men have Enlisted in to the service & the officers are at a loss ~~where they~~ of whom they are to receive the Twenty Dollar Bounty for the men, General Ward informs us that the Paymaster has not as yet received any orders to pay this Bounty money & if he had, he has no money to pay it, neither has the General received any orders to draw upon the Paymaster for this <sup>purpose</sup> ~~as it~~ is <sup>of the last importance to raise these men for the Continental Army</sup> ~~absolutely necessary~~ <sup>is absolutely necessary</sup> to order ~~to expedite the raising of them~~ without the least delay, ~~We will~~ we submit it to the consideration of Congress whether it will not be absolutely necessary to give the necessary orders for this purpose immediately & to furnish the paymaster with a sum sufficient to <sup>pay</sup> the Bounties ~~as ordered~~.

While the <sup>General</sup> Council were contemplating upon Measures for raising our Quota of the New Army, General Washington <sup>in consequence of the advice of a Council of War requested</sup> ~~highly expedient~~ that this State should as soon as possible ~~send him a Reinforcement of Four Thousand~~ <sup>to supply the place</sup> men from our Militia ~~and~~ of those who were about returning home to continue in the service till the first of March next, by which time he hoped the New Army would be levied, & this Requisition from General Washington was soon after seconded by General Lee, <sup>who signified that a greater number would be</sup> in consequence of Compliance with their Requisitions this State have ordered one quarter of the able bodied men in the Militia at home & march to reinforce the Army near New York. In the midst of our executing this Business we have been called upon by the Governor of Rhode Island to afford assistance to that State to defend them against the Enemy's Fleet. Army arrived in that State, they consist of above one hundred



Sail of ships and as Governor Coopers with not more than seven nor  
less than five Thousand Troops, They have got possession of the  
Island of Rhode Island & It is probable are meditating an  
Impression into the Country, we have therefore ordered the  
one quarter part of the militia of the County of Barnstable  
(which were destined for New York) to march to Providence, and  
have also ordered the whole of the militia of the Counties of  
Plymouth and ~~Barnstable~~ <sup>Bristol</sup> to gather with one Regiment from  
the County of Suffolk and Two Regiments from the County  
of Worcester to march ~~to~~ the same place for their Relief  
and assistance, this will naturally lessen & impede the  
reinforcement designed for the Army near New York.

We had also in consequence of a letter from Gen Schuyler  
ordered the one quarter part of the militia of the County of  
Berkshire & half the quarter part of the militia of the County  
of Hampshire (both of which were destined for Army near New York) to  
march to Albany there to follow the orders of General  
Schuyler — Notwithstanding these several <sup>urgent</sup> ~~pressing~~ calls  
The General Court are fully impressed with the <sup>necessity</sup> ~~importance~~ of raising  
a new Army and are determined vigorously to exert themselves  
in accomplishing this all important measure —

This State in pursuance of the Recommendation of Congress,  
have appointed Nathaniel Appleton Esq Commissioner  
of the Loan Office, tho they have little or no Expectations  
of his borrowing any money upon the Terms prescribed  
by Congress —







<sup>Rec'd</sup> <sup>Page 6</sup>  
Copy of a Letter of  
Hancock Esq from  
the Council Dec<sup>r</sup> 18 1776

Thomas Cushing